Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DODE-00 NRC-05 NSAE-00 TRSE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4455

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ALSO FOR COMMERCE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ESTC, ETRD, HU

SUBJ: EXPORT CONTROL: CENTRAL STATISTICAL OFFICE IBM COMPUTER

REF A: BUDAPEST 0155 B: STATE 34324

- 1. SUMMARY: AMCIT IBM REP FROM VIENNA INFORMED EMBASSY OCT 14 THAT HUNGARIAN CENTRAL STATISTICAL OFFICE (CSO) HAS REVIEWED SAFEGUARD PROCEDURES AND DECIDED THAT IN THE FUTURE IT WILL PERMIT ONLY IBM REP TO HAVE ACCESS TO LOCKED BOX CONTAINING TAPES WHICH CSO TURNS OVER TO USG; BIWEEKLY PICK-UP BY EMBASSY OFFICER ALLEGEDLY VIOLATES HUNGARIAN RULES FOR CONTACTS WITH FOREIGNERS. IBM REP UNDER INSTRUCTIONS NOT TO TRANSMIT TAPES TO EMBASSY. REQUEST INSTRUCTIONS. END SUMMARY
- 2. SINCE JANUARY 1975, EMBASSY OFFICER HAS PIACKED UP TAPES AT CSO FOR POUCHING TO DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE. HUNGARIANS NEVER AGREED IN WRITING TO PRESENT ARRANGEMENT; IN LETTER FROM CSO (DR. VARGA) TO IBM DATED DEC 4, 1974, CSO AGREED TO FORWARD THE TAPES TO THE "AUTHORITIES WHO LICENSED THE EXPORT OF THE COMPUTER." IOWEVER, IBM AND CSO WERE TO WORK OUT PROCEDURAL DETAILS.

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3. IBM REFUSED TO PERMIT ANY OF ITS AMCIT EMPLOYEES TO BRING

TAPES TO EMBASSY. SUBSEQUENTLY, IBM SPELLED OUT EMBASSY ROLE TO CSO IN LETTER AND OTHER DOCUMENTS. HOWEVER, CSO NEVER AGREED IN WRITING THAT EMBASSY OFFICER COULD PICK-UP TAPES.

- 4. CSO VICE PRESIDENT PESTI HAS NOW INFORMED IBM, BY LETTER DATED OCT 9, THAT PRESENT ARRANGEMENT "DOES NOT COMPLY WITH HUNGARIAN PROCEDURAL RULES" AND THAT IT "GREATLY OFFENDS THE HUNGARIAN STATE AUTHORITIES' REGULATIONS FOR MAINTENANCE OF CONTACTS" (I.E., WITH WESTERN EMBASSY STAFF MEMBERS). LETTER CONTINUES THAT CSO WILL NOT PERMIT PRESENT PRACTICE TO CONTINUE AND THAT IN FUTURE THE LOCKED BOX WILL ONLY BE GIVEN TO AN IBM REPRESENTATIVE.
- 5. COMMENT: IBM REP WILL MEET WITH PESTI AT 1200
 OCT 15. EMBASSY WILL REPORT OUTCOME OF MEETING, BUT
 WE DO NOT BELIEVE IT LIKELY THAT THERE WILL BE ANY
 SUBSTANTIAL CHANGE IN POSITION NOW THAT PESTI HAS SIGNED
 LETTER, WHICH HE ALMOST CERTAINLY DID UNDER FIRM INSTRUCTIONS.
 USG CONTROL OF LOCKED BOX ON GOH PREMISES AND BIWEEKLY PICK-UP
 BY EMBOFF EVIDENTLY HIT SENSITIVE NERVE AND OFFENDED MAGYAR PRIDE;
 GOH OBVIOUSLY HAS MADE THIS DECISION AT A HIGH LEVEL. WE
 RECOMMEND THAT AMCIT IBM REP CARRY TAPES TO EMBASSY.
- 6. ACTION REQUESTED: SCHEDULED OCT 10 PICK-UP WAS NOT MADE DUE TO ABSENCE OF APPROPRIATE IBM REP; AND CSO REFUSED TO ALLOW EMBOFF TO PICK-UP TAPES OCT 14. REQUEST GUIDANCE.

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